

## Health and Wellbeing Board

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 June 2023** in a conference room at the Council House, Walsall at 4.30pm

**Present**

- Councillor G. Flint (Chair)
- Councillor Elson
- Councillor Nawaz
- Dr N. Inglis, Consultant in Public Health
- Dr A Rischie, Integrated Care Board
- Ms J. Pugh, Director Adult Care
- Ms C. Jennings, Walsall Housing Sector
- Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director, Children's Services
- Mr R. Nicklin Chair, Healthwatch Walsall
- Ms V. Hines, One Walsall
- Ms R. Davies, Walsall College

**In Attendance:**

- Mrs E. Hopkins, Director, Customer Engagement
- Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

### 001 **Welcome**

Councillor Flint opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. Introductions took place and a quorum of members was established.

### 002 **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for absence and notice of substitutions were received as follows: Ms K. Allward (Ms J. Pugh sub); Mr S. Gunther (Ms. N. Inglis sub); Ms M. Foster; Ms F. Shanahan (Ms C. Jennings Sub); and Prof D. Loughton.

### 003 **Appointment of vice-chair 2023/24**

Members noted that the Board had previously agreed that the vice-chair should be drawn from the Integrated Care Board membership however, the membership vacancies allocated to ICB representatives were yet to be appointed to. It was recommended that the Vice-Chair should be the lead GP for Clinical Commissioning as they would bring clinical expertise to the Board. As the post had not yet been filled, the Chair suggested that the position be allocated to the post rather than the person and therefore the postholder could take up the position as soon as appointed rather than wait until the following meeting.

It was **Moved** by the Chair, duly **seconded** and:

**Resolved**

That the Lead GP for Clinical Commissioning (ICB) be appointed as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24

004 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023, a copy having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

005 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

006 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

007 **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028**

In attendance: Mr N. Rowe, Housing Strategy Analyst

Mr Rowe presented a report which provided the final version of the strategy.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr Rowe said that many of the partners agencies on the Health and Wellbeing Board were consulted as part of the strategy development however, this report sought to raise awareness further and seek assistance from the Board in the delivery of the actions in the strategy. He said that in terms of governance, there was a clear link to the Health and Wellbeing Board via the Housing sector representative.

Mr Rowe and Mrs E Hopkins, Director Customer Engagement then responded to questions and points of clarification during which time the following comments were made:

- Paragraph 5.2 - Action (6). This action related to exploring opportunities to introduce housing options education in local schools and colleges and was a response to the outcome of the recent homelessness review. This was a preventative measure, yet to commence but which could potentially explain how tenancies and mortgages work and the

associated responsibilities. It could also involve working with Schools Forum around duty to report and with the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub to provide advice and guidance.

- Walsall Connected network would be used to make sure people had the right support to reduce dependence on Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
- Statistics regarding homelessness, sofa surfing etc. locally were based on information provided to the Council on households captured once a month and work was done to promote the Walsall connected network to help those in need of support to connect to the right service.
- The Council had a good relationship with its housing providers however the engagement of the private rented sector was also key as other neighbouring authorities were offering incentives to Walsall PRS landlords to take in asylum seekers thereby limiting the supply locally. Cross boundary work via the West Midlands Combined Authority was important.
- There were pathways for young people to access local supported accommodation and it would be good to upscale this and access waiting lists earlier. Family Hubs should be made aware of these pathways.

Dr Inglis thanked Mr Rowe and Mrs Hopkins for their work. She said that the Public Health service was very supportive of the approach and that it was good to engage both the acute and mental health Trusts in this work.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**008 Walsall Better Care Fund 2022-23 year-end report and delegated Authority**

In attendance: Ms. C. Thompson, Better Care Fund Manager.

Ms Thompson presented a report which provided members with information regarding 2022-23 Better Care Fund (BCF) year-end reporting responsibilities; and set out current BCF governance to seek agreement to delegate authority to approve reporting presented from 2023-25

(see annexed)

A discussion took place during which time Ms Thompson responded to questions and points of clarification. She confirmed that:

- Input from local residents was still outstanding as it was being considered at a Black Country regional level. However, in the meantime, members should be assured that Walsall was doing well meeting needs in terms of the priorities at a national level around timely discharges and reducing delays and that this was linked to the BCF fund.

- The Department of Health Major Condition Survey which had recently been launched, was a National programme with specified key areas of spend and therefore the response needed a co-ordinated approach.
- Having a two year programme would provide an opportunity to focus on mental wellbeing priorities.
- Feedback from those who had been discharged was sought from individuals and their families through the Intermediate Care Service which was funded through BCF funds.
- The BCF fund aligned with the Disabled Facilities Grants and a therapist was assigned to the Intermediate Care Service to provide advice and guidance regarding the provision of adaptations.
- Regarding the focus on prevention, the BCF funded some elements of Admission Avoidance work along with the Integrated Care Board and Adult Social Care however, there were opportunities to explore further some joined up working around housing.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the report for 2022-23 BCF year-end be received retrospectively.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Executive Director Adult Social Care and the Managing director Black Country Integrated Care Board Walsall Place to approve BCF reporting during financial years 2023-25 as per the new BCF plan with retrospective reporting to apply where necessary to meet national submission deadlines which fall outside the health and Wellbeing Board timetables.

**009 Integrated Care Board – 5 year Forward Plan**

A presentation was submitted which provided the final version of the plan.

(see annexed)

It was noted that the draft version had been submitted previously to the Board and that the final version had been circulated to members to ascertain support for the Plan prior to this meeting to comply with NHS England reporting deadlines. It was noted that there had been no adverse comments following the circulation of the final plan and therefore the purpose of this item was to formally record that support.

**Resolved**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board supports the ICB five Year Forward Plan.

**010 SEND improvement programme**

Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director, Children's Services, presented a report which provided the latest update and assurance required as part of the governance arrangements required by Care Quality Commission and in the Written Statement of Action.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mrs Rowe advised that following a recent re-inspection of the Local Area SEND services, Walsall was found to have made sufficient progress against seven of the nine areas of concern with positive feedback generally. She advised that the Written Statement of Action had been removed but that an accelerated action plan was in place for the two areas which needed improvement.

A discussion took place during which time Mrs Rowe responded to questions and points of clarification. She acknowledged that there was still work to be done however, whilst schools were engaging more, it should be recognised that all secondary schools and some primary schools had moved to academy trusts, some of which were not Walsall based, so this was one of the most difficult things to deal with as they had a different focus. Notwithstanding this, Mrs Rowe commented that all schools were represented on the Walsall Learning Alliance which was encouraging schools to look from a leadership perspective rather than their own Trust.

Regarding the outstanding risk around the Local Offer set out in the appendix, Mrs Rowe explained that the Local offer was already live, however the action was more about how it was digitalised to make it more user friendly. The Director of Customer Engagement, Mrs Hopkins, explained the technical reasons for the delay, including the need to review the digital platform to make it a more intuitive offer.

Cllr Flint said that he was pleased to see rapid progress and thanked Mrs Rowe and her team for their excellent work.

**Resolved:**

- 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Board acknowledge the progress made to date in the improvement of SEND services as outlined in the 6 month Accelerated progress Plan (APP) review with DfE and Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- 2) That the Board confirms that it is assured that there are robust plans in place to achieve improvement in the two areas of concern that were found not to have yet made sufficient progress at the SEND inspection

**011 Work programme**

The Chair reminded members to take note of the items that they were responsible for and to ensure that their reports met the relevant deadlines. He also pointed out that there would be workshop session in July via Microsoft

Teams and that details and a date would be sent to Board members in due course.

- 012 **Date of next meetings** – the following dates were noted for meetings of the Board during the current Municipal Year: 19 September 2023, 12 December 2023, and 19 April 2024.

The meeting terminated at 5.31 p.m.

Chair:

Date: